

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01257 031549Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01

ACDA-10 /089 W

-----031635Z 055674 /50

O R 031500Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0019

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS GABORONE 1257

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, BC, RH

SUBJ: RHODESIAN ATTACK ON BOTSWANA AND ZAMBIA

1. THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF JUNE 3 PRESS RELEASE FROM OFFICE
OF THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING REPORTED RHODESIAN ATTACK OVER
THE BOTSWANA BORDER AT KAZANGULA EVENING OF JUNE 2:

BEGIN TEXT: "SMITH ATTACKS BOTSWANA AGAIN" - THE OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THAT A SMALL GROUP OF RHODESIAN SOLDIERS
ATTACKED THE BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCE BASE CAMP AT KAZUNGULA
AT 2000 HOURS LAST NIGHT WITH MORTAR AND SMALL ARMS FIRE.
THE BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCE RETURNED THE FIRE AND THE ATTACKERS
WITHDREW TO RHODESIA. AT THE SAME TIME ANOTHER GROUP OF
RHODESIAN SOLDIERS FIRED FROM WITHIN RHODESIA AT THE BOTSWANA
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PAGE 02 GABORO 01257 031549Z

POLICE STATION ACROSS THE ZAMBEZI RIVER BEFORE WITHDRAWING.

THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES IN BOTSWANA. THERE HAS
BEEN SUBSTANTIAL BUILD UP OF RHODESIAN TROOPS NEAR PLUM
TREE DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS. REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED
THAT THE RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES PLAN TO STAGE YET
ANOTHER UNPROVOKED ATTACK ON BOTSWANA UNDER THE GUISE

OF A SO-CALLED HOT PURSUIT OR DEFENSIVE STRIKE.
IT IS NOW PATENTLY OBVIOUS THAT SMITH HAS NO INTENTION
TO NEGOTIATE FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OR ELSE HE WOULD
NOT SANCTION THESE UNJUSTIFIABLE ATTACKS AGAINST BOTSWANA.
END TEXT

2. GOB ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY TIBONE TOLD EMBOFF THAT
THE FIGHT LASTED FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR AND THAT THE RHODESIAN
GROUP WHICH FIRED ON THE BORDER DEFENSE POST DID SO
FROM THE BOTSWANA SIDE OF THE BORDER. HE TERMED THE
INCIDENT "INEXPLICABLE".NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 03-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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